



Welcome to those who have worshipped in this place for years.  
Welcome to our first time guests.  
Welcome to all generations, families, single people and couples.  
Welcome to those who have no church home, need strength, have doubt, want to follow Christ or do not believe.

#### **PASTORAL STAFF**

Pastor - Michael Yeoman 315-761-2721  
Oneidafpcpastor@gmail.com

#### **CHURCH STAFF**

Office Secretary - John Merritt 315-527-2939  
Sexton-Jennawade Skellham 315-281-3377  
Treasurer - Frank Kordziel 315-263-1474  
Church Organist—Brian Snyder 315-761-7866  
Choir Director-Barbara Seaton 315-225-9452  
Financial Secretary - Pat Thorpe 315-363-8948  
Clerk of Session - Pat Thorpe 315-363-8948

**304 Broad Street**  
(corner of Broad and Stone)  
**Oneida, NY 13421**

#### **CHURCH OFFICE**

Phone: 315-363-7590

#### **HOURS:**

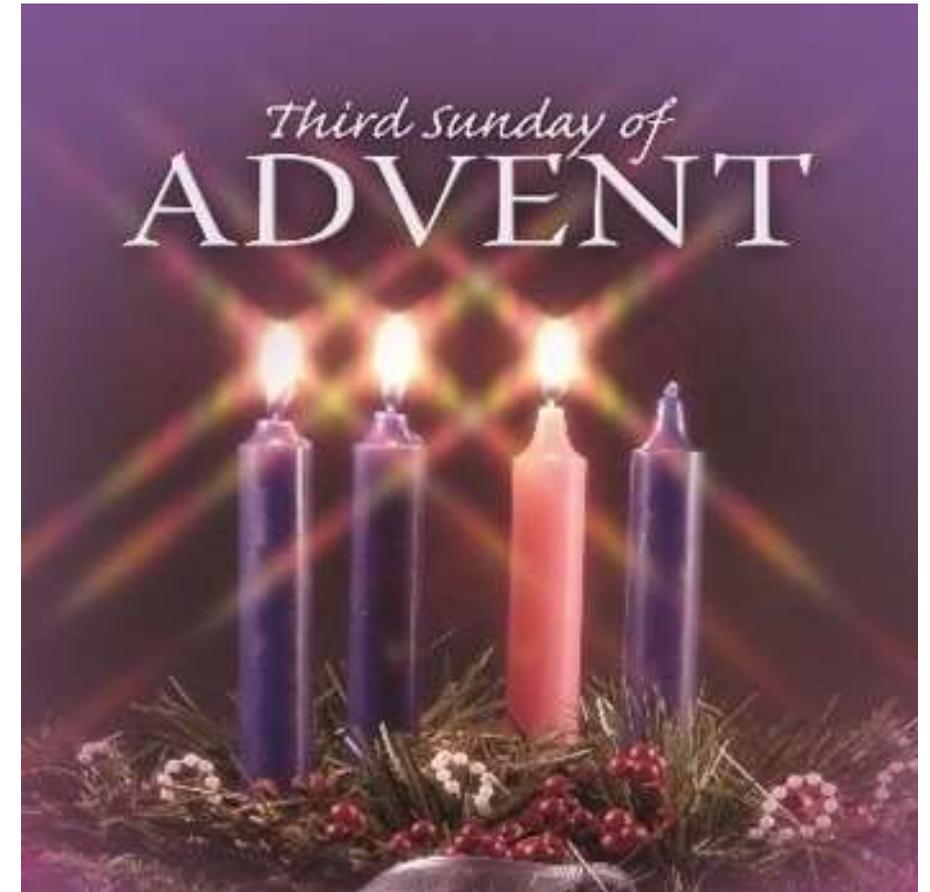
Monday – Friday  
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

#### **GENERAL EMAIL**

oneidafirstpres  
@oneidafirstpres.org

#### **WEB SITE**

oneidafirstpres.org



Joy

#### **Our Mission Statement**

The vision of the members of Oneida First Presbyterian Church is to LIVE God's plan for our family, our community and our world. TOGETHER with God's grace and guidance, we will reach out and sow the LOVE of Jesus Christ.



# The Church At Worship

First Presbyterian Church of Oneida

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Sunday, December 14, 2025 10:00 AM**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Pastor Michael L. Yeoman**

**WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

† Isaiah 35:1–10

† Psalm 126

† Luke 2:8–20

## PRELUDE

## MORNING GREETINGS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

INTROIT “Come, Sing Allelu!”

by Stan Pethel

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: On this Third Sunday of Advent, we gather with hearts ready for joy.

**People: Not joy we must create, but joy God brings to us.**

Leader: Just as the angels filled the night sky and startled the shepherds with good news

**People: God still breaks into ordinary moments with extraordinary joy.**

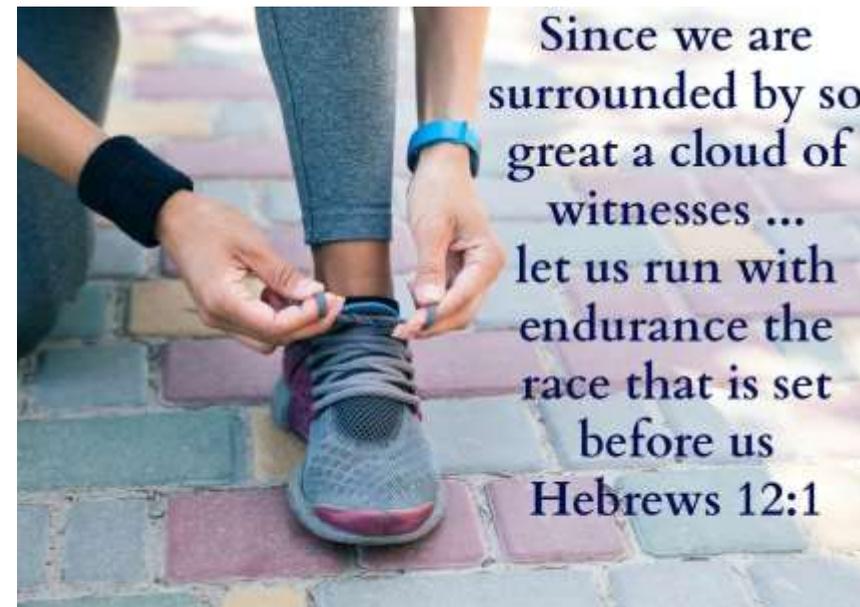
Leader: Come, let us worship the God who finds us where we are and lifts our hearts with hope.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus—fill us with Your joy. Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**The Silkowski Family**

This third week of Advent, let us remember that the good news of Jesus’ birth has the power to bring us great joy this Christmas season. Our joy isn’t



Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses ... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us  
**Hebrews 12:1**

## A Cluttered Mind

*Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.*

*Hebrews 12:1*

*Father, I’m trying to clean out the garage again. It is amazing the amount of clutter that accumulates in a year’s time. Sometimes I became emotionally involved with inanimate objects and delay letting them go. Yet, I discard them when I realize they are taking up space without providing any benefit.*

*In the same way, I pray I will frequently take a spiritual inventory and make a determined effort to eliminate the mental clutter from my life. Many items need to be set aside: prejudices, dependencies, destructive relationships, jealousies, irrational fears, and memories of past failures. Father, rather than merely moving this clutter to a temporary storage place, help me abandon it entirely.*

*From “Prayers and Promises For Men”, page 67*

## FOOD PANTRY

Our food pantry stock is getting low. We are asking for donations of non perishable goods and personal paper products. Many people in the Oneida area live on fixed income and inflation is making it difficult for them to keep basic food staples in their own pantries. You can drop off your donations during Sunday services or drop them off during the week. If you drop them off during the week please call in advance so that John will know you are coming. Thank you for your continued support of this important mission.

dependent on what is going on in our life, in our world, or the people that we are with. It doesn't depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we find under the tree. No earthly thing can ever give us complete joy. Our joy comes from God. That joy is the joy that still has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing.

We light the candle of hope and the candle of peace. Today we also light the candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

### CONGREGATION RESPONSE

*Lord, as these candles burn, awaken joy within us. Where we are weary, bring strength; where we are discouraged, bring hope; where we are waiting, bring gladness. Come, Lord Jesus, and fill us with Your joy.*

CHORAL RESPONSE      *"We Light the Advent Candles"*

by Gracia Grindal

OPENING HYMN

*"Away in a Manger"*

#25

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

*God of surprising joy, You came to shepherds in the quiet of the night and filled their darkness with light and song. Come to us now in the same way— break into our ordinary lives with Your good news of great joy.*

*Lift our spirits, brighten our hearts, and help us hear again the angels' message: that joy is Your gift to all people, and that Christ has come near. As the shepherds went with haste to see the Child, give us the same eagerness to seek Your presence and to share Your joy with the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

The shepherds heard the angels' song with joy, yet they, too, were afraid. We come to God honestly, bringing the fears, burdens, and sins that silence joy within us. Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sins before the One who brings joy to all people.

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*God of joy, we confess that we do not always live with joyful hearts. We allow worry to overshadow wonder, stress to replace gratitude, and busyness to push aside Your presence. We forget that You meet us in the ordinary and surprise us with grace. We resist Your good news and cling to fear more than trust. Forgive us, Lord. Renew our hearts. Awaken joy within us— joy that comes not from*



Let's have some fun! Be Part of the Story — Our Intergenerational Christmas Pageant!

Step into Bethlehem and help bring the Christmas story to life!

We need Marys, Josephs, angels, shepherds, wise folks, animals, and narrators — no rehearsals, just joyful participation for all ages! **Only Narrators speak!!**

**Sunday, December 21st during worship and before the Festive Potluck Christmas Luncheon**  
**Come early, pick up a costume and brief script and just have fun. — everyone is welcome!**

Let's celebrate the birth of Christ together with laughter, song, and wonder!

**PLEASE SEE PASTOR MIKE AND LET HIM KNOW HE CAN COUNT ON YOUR HELP AND PARTICIPATION**

*perfect circumstances but from Your perfect love. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and our Joy, Amen.*

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*Hear the good news: The angels said, “I bring you good news of great joy for all the people.” For all the people— including us. Through Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, our fears are lifted, and our hearts are set free to rejoice. Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven ALL: Thanks be to God!*

**\*GLORIA PATRI**                      *“Glory Be to the Father”*                      **#579**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

**WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD**

**ANTHEM**                      *“There’s a New Song in the Air”*                      **by Joseph Martin**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**OLD TESTAMENT**                      **Isaiah 35:1–10**                      **OT Page 623**

The Word of the Lord                      *Thanks be to God*

**PSALM**                      **Psalm 126**                      **OT Page 541**  
The Word of the Lord                      *Thanks be to God*

**GOSPEL**                      **Luke 2:8-20**                      **NT Page 54**  
The Gospel of Jesus                      *Thanks be to God*

**SERMON**                      *“Joy That Finds You — Even in the Ordinary”*                      **Pastor Mike**

**\*HYMN**                      *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*                      **#44**



Ushers for December

**Dec 14th**

**Randy Bonville**

**Cindy Bonville**

**Frank Korziel**

**Sue Kordziel**

**Dec 21st**

**Janet Sarensky**

**Michelle Yeoman**

**Perry Tooker**

**Kristin Tooker**



**The Per Capita for  
2025 is \$46**



*These Days for October, November and December are in and can be found in the Narthex, Sanctuary and Hall way outside the Boardroom.*



*Our Daily Bread for December, January, and February is now available in the Sanctuary, Narthex and Hallway outside the Boardroom.*

## Upcoming Blood Drives For October



Thursday, December 18th; First Presbyterian Church  
Cazenovia, NY  
1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.



*Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat. Will you please put a penny in an old man's hat? Or will you put several pennies toward a Christmas collection your elders are taking for our hardworking and always appreciated staff? If you would like to contribute, there are envelopes in the pews. Hand the envelope to any active elder with your donation and be assured it will make its way by Christmas Day.*

### **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (From a Brief Statement of Faith)

*We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.*

*In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.*

*But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.*

*Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.*

*Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. Amen.*

### **WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD**

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)**

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen*

#### **OFFERTORY**

#### **\*DOXOLOGY**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**      *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*      #23

**\*CHARGE AND BENEEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**      *“Celebrate Every Blessing”*      by Stand Pethel

**POSTLUDE**



*Thank you for worshipping with us today! Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the auditorium.*



**Christmas  
Potluck**

## *Potluck Christmas Party*

*The Fellowship committee will be hosting a Potluck Christmas Party on December 21st after the church service. The Fellowship Committee will be providing a Spiral Ham and drinks. What we are asking you to provide are your favorite entrees, side dishes and desserts. There will be a sign-up sheet in the auditorium for the next few weeks. This is a time of year for families, and what could be better than sharing a meal with your church family. Not to mention we have the best cooks in town.*

You're Invited to a Magical Evening!  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
*Candlelight*  
**SERVICE**  
Wednesday December 24, 7:00 PM  
First Presbyterian Church of Oneida  
304 Broad St., Oneida

Join us for a heartwarming night filled with peace, hope, and joy! Let the soft glow of candlelight, uplifting carols, and a message of love guide you into the spirit of the season.

For more details, call 315-363-7590

**The Case For Christmas –  
A FREE Senior Bible Study**

**Evidence for the Identity of Jesus – By Lee Strobel**

In this Four-Week Bible Study we will invite you to look behind the familiar traditions of the season, challenge you to examine the true evidence for yourself and consider why the Christmas story really matters. **All community members are welcome!**

November 19<sup>th</sup>, December 3<sup>rd</sup> December 10<sup>th</sup>, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
1:00 PM

Janeth P. Whiting Community Center  
An Outreach of the First Presbyterian Church of Oneida  
211 Stone Street Oneida  
315-363-7590

17 SHOEBOXES WERE SENT OUT THIS YEAR. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED, AND THANKS TO PAT FOR COORDINATING THIS EVERY YEAR.



If you know of anyone who needs to be added to the **Deacon's military service list** please let **Jennawade** know, or call into the office so that we can keep our list updated. The Deacons routinely send out cards and packages to our military friends.



**LIFE at ONEIDA  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**

*Week of Dec 14th-Dec 21st*

Sunday, December 14th  
10 a.m. Worship  
11:15 a.m. Community Caroling

Monday, December 15th

Tuesday, December 16th

Wednesday, December 17th  
1:00 p.m. Senior Bible Study  
4:00 p.m. Connection

Thursday, December 18th  
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Friday, December 19th

Saturday, December 20th

Sunday, December 21st  
10 a.m. Worship  
11:15 a.m. Christmas Pot Luck  
Secret Santa





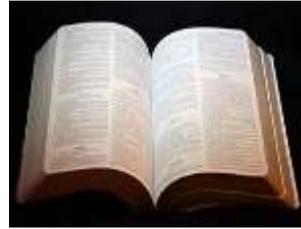
Collection Assistants for December/January

December 14th-Barb Arnold

December 21st-Stephanie Gwilt

December 28th-Sue Kordziel

January 4th-Paul Mancarella



Scripture Readers for December

December 14th-Barbara Seaton

December 21st-Frank Kordziel

December 24th-Jenelle Patchin

December 28th-Pat Thorpe



Coffee Servers for December/January

December 14th-Frank & Sue Kordziel

December 21st-Bill & Donna Ausman

Dec 28th- No Coffee Service

January 4th-Tish Vrooman & Donna Laurin



Projection Team for December

December 14th-Trish Vrooman

December 21st-Dan Gwilt

December 28th-Paul Mancarella

January 4th-Trish Vrooman

ELDERS

CLASS OF 2025

Randy Bonville  
Frank Kordziel  
Lucille Merriman  
Pat Thorpe

CLASS OF 2026

Barb Arnold  
Sue Kordziel  
Paul Mancarella  
Carol Miller  
Kathy Nichols  
Perry Tooker IV

CLASS OF 2027

Stephanie Gwilt

CLASS OF 2028

Leigh Silkowski

DEACONS

CLASS OF 2025

Sue Kordziel  
John Merritt  
Kathy Nichols  
Jennawade Skellham

CLASS OF 2026

Becky Ewen  
Frank Kordziel  
Rachel Mancarella  
Kristin Tooker  
Michelle Yeoman

CLASS OF 2027

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS  
WHO ARE GRIEVING FOR:**

Elli Pfluke

Laura Reckentine

The Family of Andy Walters

**SPECIAL CONCERNS:**

All first responders, nurses, doctors and healthcare professionals.

All victims and survivors of gun violence.

The Citizens of Ukraine

Pray for those who are serving overseas and our Police/Fire Safety personnel.

Israel and all victims of terrorism

**PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS:** Pray for those who are stationed in non-combat zones:

Jason Murphy, Jack Sharkey, Nicholas Young, Philip Messina, Ryan Geer, John Goodwill, Errol Crossman, Corey Reed, Andrew Fargo, Jim Jennings, Peter Thompson, Dylan McClelland, Sean Fuller Jr.

Those serving in combat zones:



**MISSION EMPHASIS:**

All Pastors Serving Congregations, Honorably Retired Members and Members at Large.

To All Team/Committee Chairpersons  
Treasurers and to  
Whomever Else It Applies

All Annual Reports are due in the Church Office by Wednesday, December 31st. If you would like to get them in earlier, that would be a big help to John. If you are a Treasurer and waiting for a bank statement, the deadline does not apply to you.  
But please get them in as soon as possible.



*Prayer shawls*

*Prayer shawls are available for anyone who needs a little extra comforting and support. They are stitched by church members.*

Just a reminder from the deacons

The first Sunday of the month is the loose change collection. If you have any loose change laying around the house bring it in and put it in the collection plate. That change will go to help feeding local families and stocking local food pantries.

**LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS**

Jude Alexander (Mancarella's great nephew)	Victor Johnson
Fred Bavo (Jennawade's Uncle)	Dawn Kimball
Kevin Bedford	Dan King (Pastor @ New Life Assembly of God)
Brody	
Richard Brown	Jean Kowalik
Marty Canning	Florence LaRock
Elizabeth Coulby	Isaac McGovern
Cora Cramer (Ethel Abbott's sister)	Laurie Mudge
Fran Dowd (Jim Sweet's sister)	Michelle Newman
Emeri Dryer (Maggie's grand daughter)	Becky Nichols
Peggy Eastman	Michael O'Bryan (Mike's Brother in law)
John Ferguson	Mike Oot
Robert Feldmann (Melinda's Father)	Tom Panasci
Linda Felix	Dan & Claudia Rayome
Jillian Felt	Dave Scribner
Andy Froass	Debbie Shaw
Don Fuller (Stephanie Gwilt's Father)	Debrah Skellham
Pat Grabow (Chrissy Thompson's Mom)	Brian Stites
Becky Grasso	Millicent Vidal
Wendy Holtz	Jan Whiting
Jim Hotaling	

**SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERNS**

Peggy Walters	Becky Nichols
Myron Thurston	Tim Berquist

If you have a prayer need, there are cards in the pews. Fill it out and hand it to an usher. If you know of anyone who is sick, in the hospital, or in need of our prayers, PLEASE call the Church Office, 363-7590. Please let us know also when they are healed and can be taken off the prayer list.

## UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

### December 21st Christmas pot Luck

Fellowship will provide a Spiral Ham

Coffee, Tea, and Juice

### January Chili cook-off

Date to be determined



**PRAYER MISSION DECEMBER** – The Salvation Army Red Kettles have been an American tradition since 1891, helping raise financial support for critical Salvation Army programs and services year round. This campaign allows you to host your own Red Kettle - online. Over the years, the Red Kettle Campaign has grown into one of the most recognizable and important charitable campaigns in the United States – providing toys for kids, coats for the homeless, food for the hungry and countless social service programs year-round. You become a vital part of our Christmas efforts when you help those in need by hosting an Online Red Kettle and filling it with donations from family, friends and colleagues.

JOIN US FOR AN EARLY AFTERNOON OF

# COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLING

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ONEIDA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025  
START AT CHURCH STEPS AND CAROL  
THROUGH LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD  
11:15 - 12:15

HOT CHOCOLATE SERVED IN  
FELLOWSHIP HALL AFTER CAROLING



**If anyone is in need of a pastoral visit or knows of a congregation member who would like a visit, please let Pastor Mike know. (315) 761-2721**